

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated May 1, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 4, 29, 33 and 49 are amended, claim 3 is canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 29, 33, 34, 49-51, 54 and 57 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 4, 29 and 49 (and their respective dependent claims) were objected for lack of clarity. Claims 1, 4, 29 and 49 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 4, 29, 33 and 49 (and dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 10, 34, 50-51, 54 and 57) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 4, 29, 33 and 49 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 10, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Robinson (PCT Application No. WO 94/09398).

Claims 1, 10 and 29 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Robinson (PCT Application No. WO 94/09398) in view of Gotah et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,705,725).

Claim 2 is dependent on amended claim 1, which was amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 33, and 49 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. Claims 4, 33 and 49 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 3, 5-7, 34, 50-51, 54, and 57 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 5-7, 34, 50-51, 54, and 57 are dependent on claims which have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6909 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

August 23, 2006

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23 day of August, 2006.

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